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imagery analysis report

24th Army, Beijing Military Region, China (TSR

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IAR-0182/80
DECEMBER 1980
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DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS

NOFORN-	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
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24TH ARMY, BEIJING MILITARY REGION, CHINA (TSRU)**ABSTRACT**

1. (TSR [] This report discusses the status of the 24th Army of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), Beijing Military Region (MR), China, [] It describes physical changes to the facilities, order of battle changes, and fluctuations []

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2. (TSR [] During the period of this report, a tank regiment, representing the only known armor unit in the 24th Army, was identified in the 70th Infantry Division. Significant activity occurred in the 72d Infantry Division area. Construction resumed after a hiatus of at least five years on a probable airfield adjacent to facilities of the 214th Infantry Regiment. Construction of two additional large barracks areas was observed adjacent to existing facilities housing the 215th Infantry Regiment. At least a battalion of 37mm anti-aircraft (AA) guns of undetermined subordination also was observed here.

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3. (U) This report contains two maps, one photograph, one table, and one chart.

INTRODUCTION

4. (TSR [] The 24th Army¹ is one of eight main force armies in the Beijing MR and has the same general organizational structure as the ground force units throughout China. The 24th Army occupies the mountains northeast of Beijing and is headquartered at Chengde (41-00-46N/117-54-52E; Figure 1). Units are deployed along several river valleys running northwest/southeast, suggesting a mission to protect the northern approaches into the MR (Figure 2). The army is bounded by the 66th Army, 75 nautical miles (nm) to the south, and the 65th Army, 130 nm to the west.

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

5. (TSR [] The 24th Army consists of an army headquarters, army-level support units, and the 70th, 71st, and 72d Infantry Divisions (Chart 1 and Table 1).

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Headquarters and Army-Level Support Units

6. (TSR [] The 24th Army headquarters is at Chengde Headquarters Army and Barracks AL-6. Subordinate units include the 127th* Artillery Regiment, an anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) regiment, an engineer battalion, a motor transport battalion, and a motor transport company.

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7. (TSR [] Chengde Army Bks AL-2 houses the army engineer battalion. Although ponton sections have not been seen here since 1973, two powerboats which are associated with ponton bridge companies are usually observed. Vehicle shed space is sufficient to house such a company under covered storage.

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*Unit designator is probable.

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8. (TSR) An average of 200 to 250 cargo trucks is seen at the army motor transport battalion at Luanping Army Barracks AL-2 and the army motor transport company at Chengde Army Barracks AL-4. This exceeds the standard Table of Organization and Equipment (TO&E) of 134 cargo trucks for army headquarters-level motor transport units.

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9. (TSR) No unusual activity has been observed in the AAA regiment or the 127th* Artillery Regiment. The presence of a rocket launcher battalion cannot be confirmed with the 127th.

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70th Infantry Division

10. (TSR) The 70th Infantry Division is headquartered at Luanping Headquarters Infantry Division and Barracks AL-1. Subordinate units are the 208th, 209th, and 210th Infantry Regiments; the 350th Artillery Regiment; the 275th* Tank Regiment; an AAA battalion; an engineer battalion; and a motor transport battalion.

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*Unit designator is probable.

(Continued p. 7)



FIGURE 1. 24TH ARMY, BEIJING MILITARY REGION, CHINA

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Table 1.
24th Army Units as Derived from All-Source Information

This table in its entirety is classified TOP SECRET RUFF

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Unit	Installation	Coordinates	Remarks
Army Headquarters and Support Units			
Headquarters	Chengde Hq Army & Bks AL-6	41-00-46N 117-54-52E	2 motor pools added during reporting period
Motor Transport Co	Chengde Army Bks AL-4	41-02-47N 117-59-15E	No significant activity
Motor Transport Bn	Luanping Army Bks S AL-2	40-54-15N 117-19-00E	Usual OB 150-190 cargo trucks (more than standard (TO&E); bldgs in north-center of installation observed razed in Aug 78
Engineer Bn	Chengde Army Bks AL-2	41-00-30N 117-55-55E	2 powerboats usually seen; ponton bridge co prob housed here although pontons not observed since Sep 73
Unid AAA Regt	Chengde Army Bks NNW AL-7	41-01-00N 117-54-20E	57mm AA guns first observed
127*Arty Regt	Chengde Army Bks AL-5	41-02-35N 117-59-06E	Truck-mounted RL last observed in 74
70th Infantry Division			
Headquarters	Luanping Hq Inf Div & Bks AL-1	40-55-50N 117-19-30E	No significant activity
Motor Transport Bn	Luanping Army Bks AL-4	40-55-45N 117-21-10E	Only 10-15 trucks observed since mid-77; bn is poss housed instead with the 208th Inf Regt
Engineer Bn	Same		No river-crossing equipment observed during reporting period
AAA Bn	Same		No significant activity
208 Inf Regt	Yingfang Army Bks AL-2	40-59-07N 117-29-10E	Poss houses div motor transport bn; 60-80 cargo trucks usually observed
209 Inf Regt	Fengshan Army Bks AL-1	41-13-16N 117-12-26E	No significant activity
210 Inf Regt	Yingfang Army Bks AL-1	41-00-22N 117-30-12E	No significant activity; correct coord for fac are 40-59-55N 117-20-50E
350 Arty Regt	Luanping Army Bks SE AL-3	40-50-15N 117-22-20E	First iden of truck-mounted RL

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*Indicates the numerical unit designation is probable.

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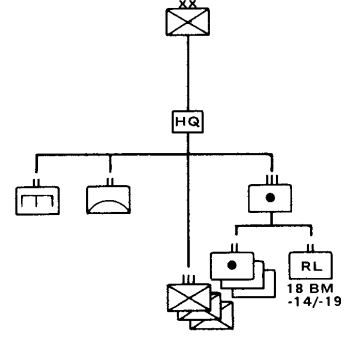
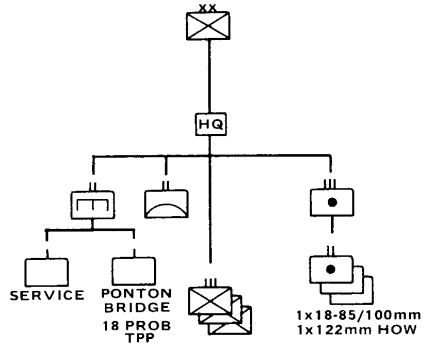
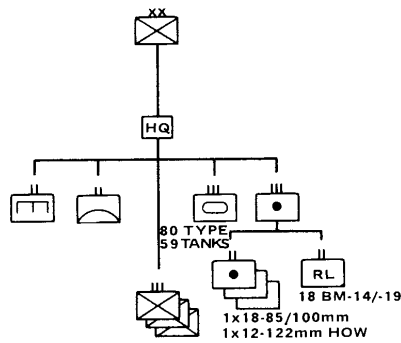
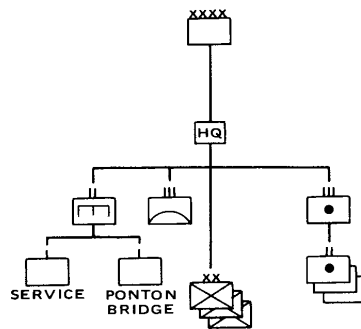
Table 1. (Con't)

Unit	Installation	Coordinates	Remarks
275* Tank Regt	Jingoutun Army Bks N AL-1	41-03-40N 117-30-39E	Observed ucon [] fac nearly complete by Jul 79; 80 type-59 tanks
71st Infantry Division			
Headquarters	Longhua Hq Inf Div & Bks AL-3	41-18-25N 117-43-35E	Motor transport bn collocated
Motor Transport Bn	Same		Low activity level (5-9 trucks)
Engineer Bn	Longhua Army Bks S	41-18-20N 117-43-20E	Photo-confirmed ponton bridge co
AAA Bn	Longhua Army Bks NE AL-5	41-20-15N 117-45-20E	No significant activity
211 Inf Regt	Longhua Army Bks AL-1	41-22-30N 117-45-40E	No significant activity
212 Inf Regt	Goaling Army Bks AL-1	40-36-05N 117-06-54E	Sigint suggests an alternate location near Longhua
213 Inf Regt	Longhua Army Bks ESE AL-6	41-09-30N 117-59-40E	No significant activity
351 Arty Regt	Longhua Army Bks AL-4	41-17-05N 117-49-15E	Low activity level since 76
72d Infantry Division			
Headquarters	Fengning Hq Inf Div & Bks AL-1	41-12-34N 116-38-18E	No significant activity
Engineer Bn	Fengning Army Bks AL-9	41-11-00N 116-37-20E	Pontons not observed since 75
AAA Bn	Fengning Army Bks AL-2	41-13-40N 116-36-50E	No significant activity
214 Inf Regt	Fengning Army Bks AL-5	41-15-48N 116-36-25E	Prob afld ucon here; large const camp added to orig fac
215 Inf Regt	Fengning Army Bks AL-8	41-19-32N 116-36-08E	2 bks areas ucon west of fac; 1 bn plus 1 battery of 37mm AA guns observed in these new bks areas
216 Inf Regt	Tanghekou Army Bks AL-1	40-51-18N 116-42-12E	No significant activity
352 Arty Regt	Fengning Army Bks AL-7	41-07-10N 116-37-51E	Photo-confirmed truck- mounted RL bn

*Indicates the numerical unit designation is probable.

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- Army
- Division
- Regiment
- Battalion
- Company
- Tank
- Infantry
- Artillery
- Antiaircraft artillery
- Engineer
- Headquarters
- Rocket Launcher



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CHART 1. 24TH ARMY UNITS CONFIRMED FROM IMAGERY ANALYSIS

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11. (TSR [REDACTED]) The 275th* Tank Regiment (Figure 3), the only known armor unit in the 24th Army, is housed at Jingoutun Army Barracks North AL-1. The installation was first observed under construction [REDACTED] and appeared to be nearly complete when last observed in July 1979. The regiment is equipped with 80 type-59 tanks and thus is up to full regimental strength. Many other Chinese armor regiments still follow an older organizational structure which consists of 30 tanks (including some T-34) and 10 assault guns.

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12. (TSR [REDACTED]) Luanping Army Barracks Southeast AL-3 houses the 350th Artillery Regiment. A truck-mounted rocket launcher battalion was first identified at this facility [REDACTED]

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13. (TSR [REDACTED]) Luanping Army Barracks AL-4 houses the division AAA and engineer battalions. A ponton bridge company has not been identified with the latter. Although a motor transport battalion is reportedly associated with this facility, only 10 to 15 cargo trucks have been observed there since mid-1977. However, it is possible that the motor transport battalion is housed at Yingfang Army Barracks AL-2 (208th Infantry Regiment) where from 60 to 80 trucks have usually been observed.

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14. (TSR [REDACTED]) No significant activity has been observed in the 209th or 210th Infantry Regiments.

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71st Infantry Division

15. (TSR [REDACTED]) The 71st Infantry Division is headquartered at Longhua Headquarters Infantry Division and Barracks AL-3; a motor transport battalion is also housed at this facility. Remaining division components are the 211th, 212th, and 213th Infantry Regiments; the 351st Artillery Regiment; an AAA battalion; and an engineer battalion.

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16. (TSR [REDACTED]) Activity has been low in the 351st Artillery Regiment at Longhua Army Barracks AL-4. Since 1976, only six artillery pieces have been observed on two occasions, [REDACTED] Rocket launchers have not been identified with this artillery regiment.

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17. (TSR [REDACTED]) Gaoling Army Barracks AL-1, which is more than 50 nm from division headquarters, houses the 212th Infantry Regiment. Sigint suggests that an alternate location for this unit may be in the Longhua area. However, one has not been identified on imagery.

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18. (TSR [REDACTED]) No significant change or activity has been observed in the 211th or 213th Infantry Regiments, the division AAA battalion, or the engineer battalion. A ponton bridge company has been confirmed with the latter unit.

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72d Infantry Division

19. (TSR [REDACTED]) The 72d Infantry Division is headquartered at Fengning Headquarters Infantry Division and Barracks AL-1. The division consists of the 214th, 215th, and 216th Infantry Regiments; the 352d Artillery Regiment; an AAA battalion; and an engineer battalion.

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20. (TSR [REDACTED]) Resumption of construction on a probable airfield has been observed near Fengning Army Barracks AL-5, where the 214th Infantry Division is housed. Construction at this probable airfield was first observed in 1972 and was later discontinued. Activity resumed sometime

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*Unit designator is probable.

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in early 1979 as observed [REDACTED] that construction was continuing at a very slow rate, and sigint recently confirmed that an undetermined air force element was active in this area. No relationship between this construction and the 214th Infantry Regiment has been established.

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21. (TSR [REDACTED]) Since 1977, two new barracks areas, large enough to house a regimental-size unit, have been under construction west of Fengning Army Barracks AL-8, where the 215th Infantry Regiment is housed. A battalion of 37mm AA guns has been observed within the confines of these new barracks, and an additional battery has been observed in an adjacent village. Whether the barracks and equipment are associated with the existing infantry regiment/division or are an entirely new and independent unit cannot yet be determined. Elsewhere in China, some infantry divisions have upgraded their AAA battalions into regiments with the addition of 57mm AA guns. The activity in this area does not appear to follow the same pattern.

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22. (TSR [REDACTED]) The 352d Artillery Regiment is housed at Fengning Army Barracks AL-7. A truck-mounted multiple-rocket launcher battalion has been with this unit since at least August 1976.

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23. (TSR [REDACTED]) No unusual activity has been observed in the 216th Infantry Regiment, in the division AAA battalion, or in the division engineer battalion. A ponton bridge company cannot be confirmed with the latter, as pontons have not been observed since October 1975.

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REFERENCES

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MAPS OR CHARTS

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1. CIA/OSR, [REDACTED] *CPLA Unit Assessments*, 28 Feb 80. (TOP SECRET R [REDACTED])

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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